

## REMARKS

Claims 16 - 20 and 40 - 49 remain active in this application. Claims 1 - 15, 21 - 39 and 50 - 75 have previously been canceled. Claims 16, 40 and 45 have been amended. Support for the amendments of the claims is found throughout the application, particularly in Figure 1 and the description thereof on pages 7 - 11 and 13 - 16. No new matter has been introduced into the application.

The opportunity for an interview by telephone with the Examiner on December 7, 2006, is acknowledged with appreciation. During the interview, two alternative proposals for correction of the drawings and submitted to the Examiner by facsimile were discussed and the Examiner's criticisms were clarified and appropriate corrections were agreed upon.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as having minor inconsistencies with pages 20 and 21 of the specification in Figures 4 and 5. This objection is respectfully traversed as being moot in view of the proposed amendments to the drawings presented above.

It is the understanding of the undersigned that, in Figure 4, the Examiner has criticized the depiction of the user selection which is performed in and subsequent to step 414. In regard to the former, the legend of step 414 has been augmented to indicate that the properly depicted branching/decision operation is "responsive to user input" and, in regard to the latter, the user selection is depicted in a parallelogram appropriate for input/output operations, as was agreed upon in the interview. In Figure 5, the Examiner merely questioned the correspondence of two arrows leading to box 504 which, as agreed during the interview, has been replaced with a single arrow. Additionally, although not criticized by the Examiner, a

superfluous arrowhead at operation 417 (deletion of which was included in the proposals presented to the Examiner) has been removed although there was no discussion of this further minor and clearly appropriate amendment during the interview. Accordingly, formal approval of the proposed drawing changes, acceptance of the proposed substitute drawing sheets and reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's objections to the drawings is respectfully requested as agreed at the interview.

Claims 16 - 20 and 40 - 49 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; the Examiner questioning what "element" is being displayed simultaneously with a "content element". It is respectfully called to the Examiner's attention that the term "element" is defined at page 2, line 9, as being basically synonymous with terms such as fields, items, etc., in accordance with which the database is organized, and which reflect the content of the database entry. The term "element" is not used in the claims other than in the context of "content element" in order to emphasize this quality/characteristic of an "element" as distinguished from an "identifier".

It is also respectfully brought to the Examiner's attention that the term "identifier(s)" is used at page 3, lines 6 - 9, of the specification to connote information (such as a title) by which a database record is identified, presumably uniquely in most cases, and which is noted in that passage to convey little, if any, information about the content of the database record. It should also be noted that "identifiers" of respective records is quite different from the recited step of means for "identifying" records (on the display by, for example, displaying them in a different color such as is done for "viewed hyperlinks" (see page 15, line 16)).

Thus the passages of claims 16, 40 and 45 specifically questioned by the Examiner recite the display of *identifiers* of at least two responsive records and simultaneously displaying content elements of at least one of the records. It is respectfully submitted that since "element" is not used in these passages other than in the context of "content elements" there is no possible question of "what elements are displayed with the content elements" (as the Examiner asserts) since they are substantively one and the same and the terminology appears to be used consistently throughout the claims. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this ground of rejection, at least as stated, is clearly in error and should be withdrawn.

The only point of possible ambiguity evident to the undersigned appears to arise from the syntax of the claims and, in an effort to expedite resolution of this issue, claims 16, 40 and 45 have been amended to clearly, affirmatively and unambiguously state that the display of content elements is simultaneous with the display of identifiers. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no basis remains in the claims for any rejection for indefiniteness and this ground of rejection is clearly untenable. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are clearly in order and such action is respectfully requested. Upon reconsideration, if any issue is considered by the Examiner to remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone at the number given below in order to expeditiously resolve the same.

Claims 16 - 20 and 40 - 49 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as omitting essential elements or steps. This ground of rejection is

respectfully traversed as being moot in view of the amendments made above in which the Examiner's suggestions have been substantially adopted.

In response to the Examiner's criticism, claims 16, 40 and 45 have been amended to recite a step or means for selecting records in a database query as noted by the preamble to which the Examiner refers. The term "selecting" (e.g. in the course of the affirmatively claimed database query) has been used rather than "identifying", as the Examiner suggests, since the latter term is also used in the last two lines of each of these claims to refer to a differentiated (e.g. different color) display for records which are selected in the database query but which have also been selected or displayed in their entirety in a prior database query and which should not be confused with the results of the database query, *per se*. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the above amendments are a complete response to the Examiner's criticism and reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

It is also noted for the record that claims 16 - 20 and 40 - 49 have been previously indicated to be allowable, and that the Examiner merely dismisses previous remarks as moot in view of the new grounds of rejection while no rejection based on prior art is made in the present Official action. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that, on the record, the claimed subject matter of the claims, as currently rejected, remains patentable over the prior art. Therefore, since the above amendments, directed to formal matters clearly render the present grounds of rejection moot and untenable, it is respectfully submitted that this response places the application in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Since all rejections, objections and requirements contained in the outstanding official action have been fully answered and shown to be in error and/or inapplicable to the present claims, it is respectfully submitted that reconsideration is now in order under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.111(b) and such reconsideration is respectfully requested. Upon reconsideration, it is also respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is therefore respectfully requested.

If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



Marshall M. Curtis  
Reg. No. 33,138

Whitham, Curtis, Christofferson & Cook, P. C.  
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340  
Reston, Virginia 20190

(703) 787-9400  
Customer Number: 30743

Fig. 4

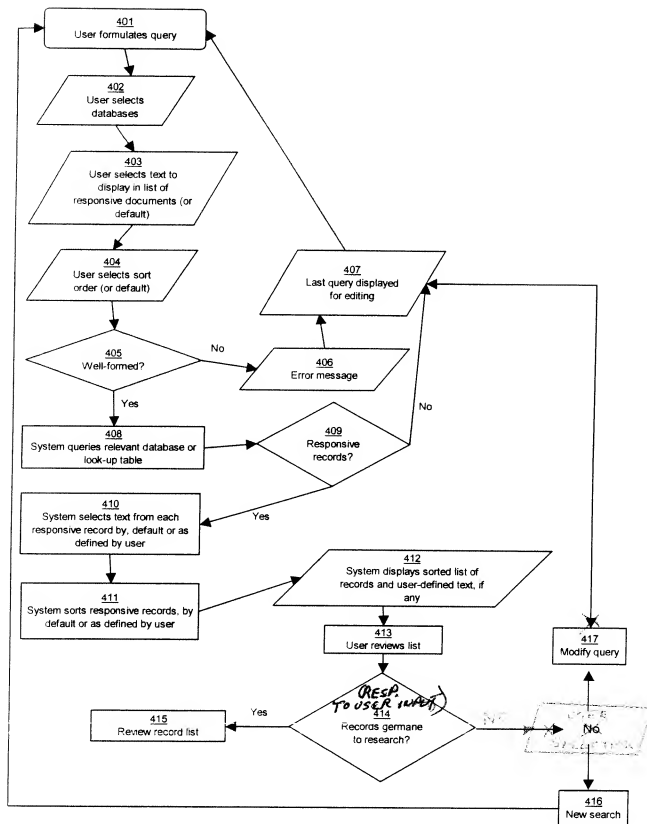


Fig. 5

